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Subj: Demonstration: Russian embassy, Ottawa

For those following the events in Chechnya, here is an item of news regarding a demonstration which took place in front of the Russian embassy in Ottawa.

On Saturday, January 14, 1995, approximately 60 Lithuanian Canadians, mostly form the Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa areas and some Estonians, protested in support of Chechnya in front of the Russian embassy in the Canadian capital- Ottawa.

A full bus of Lithuanians arrived at the embassy at 2:00 P.M. and was joined by Lithuanians and some Estonians of the Ottawa area. The demonstration lasted approximately an hour and a half. The protestors lined up on the side-walk across the street from the Russian Embassy with many Lithuanian tri-colour flags and placards which voiced support for the Chechens. A few Estonian flags were also visible. Local media was present for the event.

Algirdas Vaiciunas, president of the Lithuanian Canadian Community, brought a letter from the L.C.C. to the Russian embassy. Embassy staff refused to receive the letter and refused to acknowledge Mr. Vaiciunas' presence.

The demonstration ended peacefully, just as it began. The protestors headed home right after the demonstration.

Andrew Gedris